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ABSTRACT

This unit of study (for grades 5-8) about immigrants to the United States during the 19th century contains four elements: (1) a set of reproductions of documents; (2) a list of documents with their specific archival reference numbers and a brief synopsis of their historical significance to the unit's theme; (3) 10 classroom activities; and (4) an issue of "Cobblestone" magazine related to the subject matter of study. The unit helps students develop knowledge of social studies content and improve skills needed for understanding such information by introducing them to primary historical documents. This concrete approach advances students to higher-level thinking and offers experience and practice the following: collecting, organizing, interpreting, and weighing the significance of factual evidence to achieve a systematic analysis of primary source documents; comparing and contrasting evidence from different sources; identifying factual information and separating it from opinion; identifying points of view and biases; and developing defensible inferences, conclusions, and generalizations from factual evidence. (BT)

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